

577 possession, he will rightfully suppose you to be a thief. Anything
421 that can be found in the forest is the property of the first man who
685 can lay hands upon it: so if you locate bees on a tree and see that the
latter has been marked, leave them, they are not yours to take any
more, the person who marked the tree will sooner or later come to claim
577 his property. Pay your debts faithfully, never forget about them.
426 The heirs of a deceased person inherit his debts as well as his prop-
686 erty, and the creditor will appear some day to ask payment from their
hands. In case of a raid upon the house of a culprit,—for instance,
when a girl has been made pregnant, or when a married woman has
returned to her parents whether against the will of her husband or
because the latter rightfully divorced her for adultery, etc., and her
parents refuse to give back to the offended husband what he gave
them at the time of his marriage, or when somebody has been killed
among people who are on friendly terms with one another,—then of
course, if you are a relative of the offended party, you are free to
rob the house of all its valuables: this is not stealing, it is simple
justice.

577 "You should not be so strict, however, with reference to the Ibanag:
609 almost anything is allowed when you deal with them. Plain stealing
421 of course should be avoided, but for the rest it would be hard to
426 qualify anything by the name of injustice, when the Ibanag are in ques-
437 tion. Here, nevertheless, you should make a distinction: you may
686 have good friends among them or they may be your guests, and then
685 of course strictly respect them and keep away from their property.
But, deceit in transactions, escaping the payment of a debt, and so
on, which would be downright dishonesty if done among ourselves,
are just a sign of cleverness on your part, when the Ibanag are con-
cerned. A good Isneg is strictly just with all his friends, with all
the people of every village at peace with his own; enemies have no
rights in the eyes of an Isneg, and the rights of the Ibanag are far
from having the same sacredness as those of your own people."

685 Two years ago a Tubungan (near Abbil) man had been robbed of
628 a few of his valuables, while he was away on a trading expedition
[694] into Ilocos. After much investigating and lying in wait near the
177 house of the suspected thief, the owner had become convinced of the
latter's guilt, and immediately brought in a complaint, as the ac-
cused denied any participation in the theft. I met the plaintiff and
his father, on their way to Kabugaw, in the municipal building of
Namatugan. Talking about the matter, I asked them what would